

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): An enzyme electrode comprising:

a portion of electrode formed on an insulating substrate;

an immobilized enzyme layer formed over the portion of electrode;

an adhesion layer comprising a silane-containing compound formed over the immobilized enzyme layer; and

a permeation-limiting layer comprising a fluorine-containing polymer having a structure where a pendant group containing at least a fluoroalkylene block is attached to an unfluorinated vinyl-based polymer, which is formed on the adhesion layer.
2. (original): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said adhesion layer is a layer composed essentially of a silane coupling agent.
3. (original): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein said fluorine-containing polymer is a fluoroalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (A) in which the polycarboxylic acid (A) is contained as the unfluorinated vinyl-based polymer thereof.
4. (original): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein said fluorine-containing polymer is a mixture that contains a fluoroalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (A) in which the polycarboxylic acid (A) is contained as the unfluorinated vinyl-based polymer and additionally an alkylalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (B).

5. (currently amended): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 4-1 wherein said fluorine-containing polymer is a copolymer composed of a fluoroalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (A) and an alkylalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (B).

6. (currently amended): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 4 ~~or 5~~ wherein said polycarboxylic acid (B) is selected from polymethacrylic acid, polyacrylic acid or a copolymer of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

7. (currently amended): An enzyme electrode as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 3 to 5~~ Claim 3 wherein said polycarboxylic acid (A) is selected from polymethacrylic acid, polyacrylic acid or a copolymer of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

8. (original): An enzyme electrode comprising:
a portion of electrode formed on an insulating substrate;
an electrode protective layer covering the portion of electrode;
a binding layer comprising a silane-containing compound, which is formed on the electrode protective layer;
an ion-exchange resin film layer formed on the binding layer;
an immobilized enzyme layer formed on the ion-exchange resin film layer;
an adhesion layer comprising a silane-containing compound, which is formed on the immobilized enzyme layer; and
a permeation-limiting layer comprising a fluorine-containing polymer having a structure where a pendant group containing at least a fluoroalkylene block is attached to an unfluorinated vinyl-based polymer, which is formed on the adhesion layer.

9. (original): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 8 wherein said electrode protective layer is made essentially of a urea compound.

10. (original): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 8 wherein said binding layer and said adhesion layer are layers composed essentially of a silane coupling agent.

11. (original): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 8 wherein said fluorine-containing polymer is a fluoroalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (A) in which the polycarboxylic acid (A) is contained as the unfluorinated vinyl-based polymer thereof.

12. (original): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 8 wherein said fluorine-containing polymer is a mixture that contains the fluoroalcohol ester of the polycarboxylic acid (A) in which the polycarboxylic acid (A) is contained as the unfluorinated vinyl-based polymer and additionally an alkylalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (B).

13. (currently amended): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 8-12 wherein said fluorine-containing polymer is a copolymer composed of a fluoroalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (A) and an alkylalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (B).

14. (original): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 12 or 13 wherein said polycarboxylic acid (B) is selected from polymethacrylic acid, polyacrylic acid or a copolymer of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

15. (original): The enzyme electrode as claimed in any one of Claims 11 to 13 wherein said polycarboxylic acid (A) is selected from polymethacrylic acid, polyacrylic acid or a copolymer of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

16. (currently amended): An enzyme electrode comprising:

a portion of electrode formed on an insulating substrate;
an immobilized enzyme layer formed on the portion of electrode; and
a permeation-limiting layer formed over the immobilized enzyme layer and placed on the uppermost surface;

wherein said permeation-limiting layer consists of a film essentially comprising a fluorine-containing polymer; ~~and many grooves are built in on the surface of said permeation-limiting layer consisting of the film essentially comprising a fluorine-containing polymer of~~ which an average thickness is selected within a range of 0.01 to 1 μm ; and many grooves with depth selected in a range of 0.1 to 100 nm are built on the surface thereof.

17. (currently amended): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 16 wherein ~~the~~ an average thickness of said permeation-limiting layer is selected within a range of 0.01 to 10.02 to 0.5 μm ; and the surface of the permeation-limiting layer has an irregular shape having a surface roughness within a range of 0.0001 or more and 1 or less fold of said average thickness of the permeation-limiting layer.

18. (original): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said fluorine-containing polymer is a polymer having a structure where a pendant group containing at least a fluoroalkylene block is attached to an unfluorinated vinyl-based polymer.

19. (original): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 16 or 18 wherein said fluorine-containing polymer is a fluoroalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (A) in which the polycarboxylic acid (A) is contained as the unfluorinated vinyl-based polymer thereof.

20. (original): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 16 or 18 wherein said fluorine-containing polymer is a mixture that contains the fluoroalcohol ester of the polycarboxylic acid (A) in which the polycarboxylic acid (A) is contained as the unfluorinated vinyl-based polymer and additionally an alkylalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (B).

21. (currently amended): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim ~~20~~16 wherein said fluorine-containing polymer is a copolymer composed of a fluoroalcohol ester of ~~the a~~ polycarboxylic acid (A) and ~~the an~~ alkylalcohol ester of ~~the a~~ polycarboxylic acid (B).

22. (currently amended): An enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim ~~20 or 21~~ wherein said polycarboxylic acid (B) is selected from polymethacrylic acid, polyacrylic acid or a copolymer of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

23. (currently amended): An enzyme electrode as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 19 to 21~~Claim 19 wherein said polycarboxylic acid (A) is selected from polymethacrylic acid, polyacrylic acid or a copolymer of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

24. (currently amended): A process for manufacturing an enzyme electrode comprising the steps of:

forming an electrode film on the main surface of an insulating substrate and then patterning the electrode film to form a plurality of portions of electrodes;

forming an electrode protective layer covering the electrode surface;

forming a binding layer comprising a silane-containing compound on the main surface of the insulating substrate;

forming an ion-exchange resin film layer on the main surface of the insulating substrate;

applying ~~an~~ a liquid containing an enzyme to the main surface of the insulating substrate and then drying the insulating substrate to form an immobilized enzyme layer;

applying a liquid containing a fluorine-containing polymer having a structure where a pendant group comprising at least a fluoroalkylene block is attached to an unfluorinated vinyl-based polymer to the main surface of the insulating substrate by spin coating and then drying the insulating substrate to form the permeation-limiting layer; and

dicing the insulating substrate to give a plurality of enzyme electrodes;

wherein an average thickness said permeation-limiting layer is selected within a range of 0.01 to 1 μ m; and many grooves with depth selected in a range of 0.1 to 100 nm are built in on the surface of the permeation-limiting layer.

25. (currently amended): ~~An A~~ process for manufacturing an enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 24 wherein the process is performed in such manner where after said step of forming the immobilized enzyme layer, further step of applying a liquid comprising a silane-containing compound to the main surface of the insulating substrate and then drying the insulating substrate to form an adhesion layer is carried out, and followed by the step of applying the liquid containing said fluorine-containing polymer to the upper surface of the adhesion layer coating the main surface of the insulating substrate and then drying the insulating substrate to form the permeation-limiting layer comprising the steps of:

forming an electrode film on the main surface of an insulating substrate and then patterning the electrode film to form a plurality of portions of electrodes;

forming an electrode protective layer covering the electrode surface;

forming a binding layer comprising a silane-containing compound on the main surface of the insulating substrate;

forming an ion-exchange resin film layer on the main surface of the insulating substrate;

applying a liquid containing an enzyme to the main surface of the insulating substrate and then drying the insulating substrate to form an immobilized enzyme layer;

applying a liquid comprising a silane-containing compound to the main surface of the insulating substrate and then drying the insulating substrate to form an adhesion layer, and sequentially applying a liquid containing a fluorine-containing polymer to the upper surface of the adhesion layer coating the main surface of the insulating substrate and then drying the insulating substrate to form a permeation-limiting layer; and

dicing the insulating substrate to give a plurality of enzyme electrodes.

26. (currently amended): ~~A~~A process for manufacturing an enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim ~~24 or 25~~ wherein said permeation-limiting layer is a layer being formed by spin coating.

27. (currently amended): ~~A~~A process for manufacturing an enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 25 wherein said silane-containing compound used for forming the adhesion layer is a silane coupling agent.

28. (currently amended): A biosensor comprising an enzyme electrode as claimed in any one of Claims ~~1 to 23~~, 8 or 16.

29. (currently amended): ~~A~~A process for manufacturing an enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim ~~24 or 25~~ wherein said fluorine-containing polymer is a polymer having a

structure where a pendant group containing at least a fluoroalkylene block is attached to an unfluorinated vinyl-based polymer.

30. (currently amended): ~~An~~ A process for manufacturing an enzyme electrode as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 24, 25 or 29~~ Claim 25 or 29 wherein said fluorine-containing polymer is a fluoroalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (A) in which the polycarboxylic acid (A) is contained as the unfluorinated vinyl-based polymer thereof.

31. (currently amended): ~~An~~ A process for manufacturing an enzyme electrode as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 24, 25, 29 and 30~~ Claim 25 wherein said fluorine-containing polymer is a mixture that contains a fluoroalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (A) in which the polycarboxylic acid (A) is contained as the unfluorinated vinyl-based polymer and additionally an alkylalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (B).

32. (currently amended): ~~An~~ A process for manufacturing an enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim ~~32-25~~ wherein said fluorine-containing polymer is a copolymer of a fluoroalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (A) and an alkylalcohol ester of a polycarboxylic acid (B).

33. (currently amended): ~~An~~ A process for manufacturing an enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 31 or 32 wherein said polycarboxylic acid (B) is selected polymethacrylic acid, polyacrylic acid or a copolymer of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

34. (currently amended): ~~An~~ A process for manufacturing an enzyme electrode as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 30 to 32~~ Claim 30 wherein said polycarboxylic acid (A) is selected from polymethacrylic acid, polyacrylic acid or a copolymer of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.